

REMARKS

Claims 3-10, and 27-40 are pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 3-7, 10 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated and therefore unpatentable over Padwick et al. (Microsoft® Outlook® user's manual).

Regarding claim 3, Applicant discloses and claims a text editing system including an electronic document generation module configured to allow a user to generate an electronic document, to receive from the user a predefined string of characters identifying the location of unknown information, and to enter into the electronic document a placeholder for the unknown information at the location specified by the user with the predefined string. The text editing system also includes an active messaging module configured to recognize the predefined string of characters as entered into the electronic document and, after recognizing in response the predefined string of characters, to automatically open a messaging window on a display that permits the user to compose a message requesting the unknown information from one or more recipients.

Padwick discloses an application for creating a document and sending a copy of that document to an email recipient. Specifically, Padwick discloses "In Word, or another Office Application, [referring to Microsoft® applications] you can create a document and send that document to an e-mail recipient. Here's how ..." (page 1, paragraph 4).

Padwick neither teaches nor suggests receiving "a predefined string of characters identifying the location of unknown information, and to enter into [an] electronic document a placeholder for the unknown information." Rather, Padwick recites steps that a user may follow to open an Outlook message window from an open Word document; i.e., "[o]pen word ... [c]hoose File, move the pointer onto Send To, and choose Mail recipient."

Accordingly, Padwick does not disclose all of the features of the text editing system of claim 3, and, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

As claims 4-7, 10 and 27 depend from claim 3, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-9, 28-35 and 38-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious and therefore unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,360,221 (Gough) in view of Padwick.

Claim 8 recites, in pertinent part: “[a] computer-implemented document editing method, comprising: receiving a predefined string of characters into an electronic document entered by a user, wherein the predefined string of characters represents a placeholder for unknown information, and recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string, automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder ...”

Gough discloses “a method for providing an e-mail system including ... enhancing the e-mail message with a self-executing programmable enhancement; and delivering the e-mail over [a] network to ... at least one recipient mail box.”

Examiner acknowledges that Gough does not teach “recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string, assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from text a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder.”

Examiner adds Padwick (referencing figures 3.30, 3.33, 3.39 and 3.40) for teaching “creating, sending, and receiving electronic document ..., in which he teaches recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder.” However, Padwick neither teaches nor suggests the subject matter missing with respect to the Gough reference. Rather, figures 3.30, 3.33, 3.39 and 3.40 disclose different ways a user can manually enter and/or edit information in an e-mail message. For example, figure 3.30 shows that an email message

can be addressed by entering one or more recipient e-mail addresses into the To box (see page 4, paragraph 4; see also figure 3.30). Figure 3.33 discloses a formatting toolbar for formatting/editing text of an e-mail message. Figure 3.39 discloses that a user can insert an "Outlook Contact item" into the text of an e-mail message. Figure 3.40 discloses that a user can insert a horizontal line in an e-mail message, e.g., to separate text.

Thus, since neither Gough nor Padwick disclose, either alone or in combination, the concept of recognizing a predefined string of characters using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string, automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to the placeholder, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Since claim 9 depends from claim 8, it is allowable for at least the same reasons.

Regarding claim 28, this claim recites, in pertinent part: "[a] method of editing a text document, the method comprising: ...manually entering a predefined string of characters into [an] open text document, causing the document editing program to recognize the entered string of characters as a placeholder for missing information, and in response to recognizing the string of characters, to open a messaging window ..."

Neither Gough nor Padwick, whether taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a method of editing a text document that includes manually entering a predefined string of characters into an open text document, causing a text document editing program to recognize the entered string of characters as a placeholder for missing information, and in response to recognizing the string of characters, to open a messaging window.

In particular, Gough describes "a method for providing an e-mail system ... includ[ing] providing a server connected to a network; inputting a message from a sender into the server to be sent as e-mail to at least on recipient mail box on the network; enhancing the e-mail message with a self-executing programmable enhancement; and delivering the e-mail over the network to the at least one recipient mail box." (col. 2, lines 6-13).

Gough neither teaches nor suggests a method of editing a text document including manually entering a predefined string of characters into an open text document, causing a

document editing program to recognize the entered string of characters as a placeholder for missing information, and in response to recognizing the string of characters, to open a messaging window. Instead, Gough discloses that the message text of an e-mail message can be enhanced by a self-executing program incorporated in the electronic message. (see col. 7, lines 25-30; see also col. 8, lines 9-31). For example, Gough discloses "a program replaces the word 'I' with a pair of eyes having pupils that 'look at' or track the cursor, and which also replaces the word 'Love' with a beating heart." (col. 7, lines 28-33). Gough also discloses that "other features may be included such as an advertisement that is displayed only after the electronic message is forwarded a predetermined number of instances." (col. 8, lines 25-27). There is nothing in Gough to suggest that the self-executing program recognizes a predefined string of characters as placeholder for missing information, and in response to recognizing the string of characters, opens a messaging window. Rather, Gough discloses a program that replaces certain recognized words in the text of an electronic message with animation and/or graphics, as described above.

Examiner adds Padwick for teaching "saving the electronic document on a computing device," referencing figure 3.38 of Padwick. However, Padwick fails to provide the subject matter missing with respect to the Gough reference. Specifically, Padwick does not disclose a method of editing a text document that includes manually entering a predefined string of characters into an open text document, causing a text document editing program to recognize the entered string of characters as a placeholder for missing information, and in response to recognizing the string of characters, to open a messaging window. Thus, the teachings of Gough and Padwick, taken alone or together, do not disclose all of the features of claim 28.

As claims 29-35 and 38-40 depend from claim 28, they are allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for taking the time to conduct the telephonic interview on Monday, February 27.

Applicant : David H. Levy
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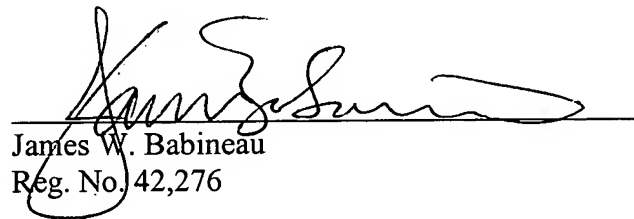
Attorney's Docket No.: 13605-004001

In view of the above, the pending claims are believed to meet the formal requirements for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

No excess claims fees are believed due. Enclosed is \$510 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number 13605-004001.

Respectfully submitted,

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